

Serial No. 10/676,545

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action mailed April 6, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 10, 12, 13, 22-26, and 28 are pending in the application. Claims 14-16 and 27 have been rejected by the Examiner. Claims 1, 2, 10, 12, 13, 22-26, and 28 have been amended. Claims 17-21 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 14-16 and 27 are canceled. The amendments and new claims are fully supported by the written description.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicant has not received signed copies of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on April 21, 2005 and October 4, 2005. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner return signed copies of these Information Disclosure Statements.

Elections/Restrictions

Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of withdrawn claims 17-19 and their rejoinder. Claims 20 and 21 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as his invention. Claim 16 is canceled.

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Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) – Hemerick et al.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Hemerick et al. (US 7,011,675). Claims 14 and 15 are canceled.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) – Boulais

The Examiner has rejected Claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by to Boulais (USPAP 20040213893). Claim 27 is canceled.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Whittenberger et al. (US 6,575,933) in view of Rosenbluth (US 4,762,128) or Boulais. Claims 14-16 are canceled.

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CONCLUSION

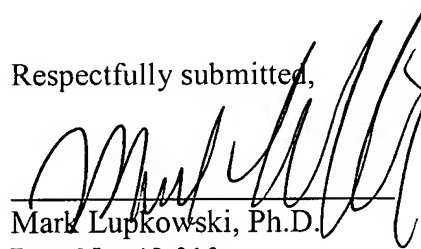
Claims 1, 2, 10, 12, 13, 17-19, 22-26, and 28 are pending in this application. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the foregoing amendments and pass the case to issue.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (415) 954-0297.

Date: June 22, 2006

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Lupkowski', is written over a horizontal line.

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